

## **Assessment Letter**

Dear Parents,

Ninth grade is a time of busy transition for you and your child. This letter serves to provide you information on how your child will be assessed in ninth grade mathematics. At the beginning of the class, I present information to the students about what they will be learning during this school year and encourage them to set goals along the way. As a parent, you are a vital part of the success that your child will experience this year. Therefore, I want to inform you of the specific methods of how students will be evaluated. Assessments cover the different ways that I grade and record information about how students exhibit knowledge that has been taught in the class. There are several different types of assessments that I will discuss in this letter. As an overview, pre-assessments are given prior to the subject matter being taught in order to determine the best ways to present the new information to the students. Formative assessments cover all the different types of activities, projects, and quizzes that are done during the units. These types of tests and assignments help me to know if students are getting the information as we go along. Lastly, summative assessments are the end of chapter or unit tests that you may be familiar with; they also include the CRCT (Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests) that your child has already been taking if they were previously a Georgia public school student (other states have similar tests), the EOCT (End of Course Test), and the GHSGT (Georgia High School Graduation Test) that your child will be taking in a couple of years.

I use pre assessments as an information tool for each unit lesson. Though many of my students had a similar eighth grade mathematics curriculum, it is extremely important for me not to assume that they are at the same level of understanding. The planning that comes from the information on this test allows me to provide the proper amount of challenge for students with a greater understanding of the concepts and the correct amount of assistance for those that may need it. The pre-assessment usually comes in the form of a short quiz with some multiple choice questions, a few problems to be solved, and/or a short writing portion where students can explain their knowledge of a concept. Students receive credit for simply participating and trying on these types of assessments. Some students are concerned that it will hurt their grade because they don't know how to do it. Please encourage your child not to worry about the pre-assessment because it serves to gather information not to test them on something they may not know. The only way to lose points on a pre-assessment is a refusal to try.

The formative assessments make up the largest part of the evaluation for this class. These include homework, in class activities, quizzes, group work, and mini projects. They provide the most information about how your student is performing as we go along. There are many opportunities for correction so that students will not make similar mistakes as they are leading up to big tests. Homework will be given nightly to give the students sufficient practice. In class activities allow students to use the steps taught in class immediately where they can ask for help. Quizzes are given each Friday to ensure that students can apply the steps taught during

the week; they are given this often to create many opportunities for success. Group work and mini projects are done in order to allow students to receive assistance from their classmates and self-assessment. These projects involve students coming up with creative ways to remember the steps to solving different types of problems. Also I request a short five minute meeting with each student weekly in order to discuss their progress. These various types of assessments address the different ways that the students learn. For some projects, I request that students present their information in the front of the class. However for students that may be shy and have trouble with this task, there are still opportunities to show their knowledge. As a parent, please encourage your child to complete their homework each night, which will be collected for a grade on some days. Also encourage them to actively participate in class activities and ask questions of me as frequently as needed when they feel they do not have a strong understanding of the concepts that are being taught.

All of the types of assessments listed thus far serve the purpose of helping your child develop mastery. Mastery means that your child can use the information taught in class to answer problems, apply the steps used to different types of problems, and explain the concepts. Though this may seem difficult at first, a great amount of practice serves to make a more straightforward process for your student. Developing mastery helps prepare your student for summative assessments. After I have spent the proper amount of time explaining a concept and the students have practiced it in several ways, it will be time for a unit test. These tests consist of a larger number of problems than quizzes but are otherwise similar. Your student will usually need to take some time to study for these tests but you should encourage them that their participation along the way will enhance their ability to understand what they need to know at test time. On these tests students present their strengths and show they have met their goals for the unit. Summative assessments for the class may also come in the form of a unit project in which students present a comprehensive set of information that was learned throughout the set of chapters.

Also, at the end of this year, your student will take the CRCT and the EOCT based on mathematics instruction received in this class (as well as other subjects). These tests are also summative assessments that are given school and statewide. The CRCT measures student knowledge based on Georgia Performance Standards. Mathematics instruction in this class has been done with these standards in mind; therefore your student will be tested on what they have been taught. This test will not only look for your child's strengths and weaknesses but those of the educational system across the district and the state. The EOCT is a test required for the ninth grade Mathematics I course in Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics. It also measures what your student has learned throughout the year based on Georgia curriculum standards. This test accounts for 15% of your student's final grade. Encourage your students to see these tests as a final recital or big game for which they have been practicing for in class, all year long. It's a chance to really show what they can do.

I look forward to working with your students and you this year, together for their success!  
Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Best Regards,

Rubia Daniel